

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 2, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 17, 30, 43, 56, 73, 81, and 84. Additionally, Applicants cancel Claims 10, 26, 39, 52, 67, 78, and 86 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants previously canceled Claims 4, 80, and 88 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants also add Claim 96-135 which are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claim 72, and the Examiner's indication that Claims 9, 10, 13, 25, 26, 38, 39, 51, 52, 66, 67, 76, 78, 84, 86, and 89-95 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amend Claims 1, 17, 30, 43, 56, 73, and 81 to include elements of allowable Claims 10, 26, 39, 52, 67, 78, and 86, respectively, thus placing Claims 1, 17, 30, 43, 56, 73, and 81 in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Applicants also cancel Claims 10, 26, 39, 52, 67, 78, and 86, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection to these claims. As discussed further below, Applicants also add new Claims 96, 101, 105, 106, 111, 114, 117, 121, 125, 126, 130, and 133, which include elements of Claims 25, 38, 51, 66, 76, 84, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, and 95, respectively.

Section 103 Rejections

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claim 72, and the Examiner's indication that Claims 9, 10, 13, 25, 26, 38, 39, 51, 52, 66, 67, 76, 78, 84, 86, and 89-95 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amend Claims 1, 17, 30, 43, 56, 73, and 81 to include particular elements of allowable Claims 10, 26, 39, 52, 67, 78, and 86, respectively, that the Examiner suggests are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited references. Thus, Claims 1, 17, 30, 43, 56, 73, and 81 are allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Applicants also

cancel Claims 10, 26, 39, 52, 67, 78, and 86 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection to these claims. As discussed further below, Applicants also add new Claims 96, 101, 105, 106, 111, 114, 117, 121, 125, 126, 130, and 133, which include elements of Claims 25, 38, 51, 66, 76, 84, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, and 95, respectively.

Applicants wish to note that, with respect to all amendments and cancellations herein, Applicants reserve the right to pursue broader subject matter than that presently claimed through the filing of continuations and/or other related applications.

New Claims

Applicants add new Claims 96-150, which are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. New Claims 96, 101, 105, 106, 111, 114, 117, 121, 125, 126, 130, and 133, include elements of original or previously presented Claims 25, 38, 51, 66, 76, 84, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, and 95, respectively, all of which the Examiner indicates would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, new Claims 96, 101, 105, 106, 111, 114, 117, 121, 125, 126, 130, and 133 are allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Applicants respectfully request consideration and full allowance of new Claims 96, 101, 105, 106, 111, 114, 117, 121, 125, 126, 130, and 133, and their respective independents.

Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned Attorneys for Applicants stand ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

A check in the amount of \$1,694.00 is attached to cover the fee for additional claims. No other fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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